Carolina Comments

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Authors and Historians Honored at Joint Annual Meeting

On Friday, November 14, members of the North Carolina Literary and Historical Association (NCLHA) and the Federation of North Carolina Historical Societies (FNCHS) held their annual joint meeting at the North Carolina Museum of History in Raleigh. The session featured presentations on the revised edition of *The Way We Lived in North Carolina*, the smallpox epidemic in Revolutionary-era America, and the absence of magic realism in American literature, as well as the customary bill of awards and certificates for the year's best North Carolina books, secondary-school literary magazines, and local historical organizations. The occasion was a milestone for the North Carolina Book Awards, marking the inaugural presentation of the Ragan Old North State Award and the fiftieth anniversary for both the poetry and juvenile literature honors.

Jo Ann Williford, secretary-treasurer of the FNCHS, welcomed attendees to Raleigh and introduced speakers during the afternoon portion of the program. By tradition, the first order of business was the presentation of the 2003 Student Publication Awards, presided over by John Batchelor of Greensboro. First place in the high school division of the literary magazine competition went to Highlands School of Highlands for its publication, *Crossroads*. Second place in the category was awarded to W. G. Enloe High School of Raleigh for *Stone Soup*. Third place resulted in a tie between Charles D. Owen High School of Black Mountain for *Pegasus* and Ravenscroft School of Raleigh for *The Living Hand*. Lee County High School of Sanford received honorable mention for *The Lee High Review*. Honored with first place in the middle school division was LeRoy Martin Middle School of Raleigh for *Illusions*. Second place went to Rugby Middle School of Hendersonville for *Kaleidoscope*, and third place to Seventy-First Classical Middle School of Fayetteville for *The Classical Quill*. Charlotte Country Day Middle School of Charlotte received honorable mention for *Pirates' Treasure*. Five student groups were on hand to receive their trophies or certificates.

On behalf of the Historical Society of North Carolina, Alice Cotten of Chapel Hill presented two awards. The R. D. W. Connor Award honors the best article to appear in the *North Carolina Historical Review (NCHR)* during the preceding year. The winner was

A Message from the Deputy Secretary

Despite the budget crisis that has afflicted all of state government in recent years, the Office of Archives and History has continued to plan for the future preservation of important historical resources. Through grants and gifts, the office has acquired, expanded, or protected several properties directly related to its programs and mission.

The City of Fayetteville has given the Museum of the Cape Fear three tracts of property adjacent to and just west and north of Arsenal Park. The three tracts will permit a better interpretation of the park. The park contains the foundations of the western wall and shops of the U.S. Arsenal. Originally constructed

between 1838 and 1860, the arsenal received additions from the Confederate government between 1861 and 1865. Gen. William T. Sherman destroyed the structure during the Carolinas campaign of 1865.

For more than twenty years, the Robert Lee Humber House in Greenville has hosted the headquarters of the Eastern Office of Archives and History. The house once belonged to Robert Lee Humber—lawyer, legislator, visionary, and founder of the North Carolina Museum of Art. It is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. In 1980 Humber's sons John and Marcel donated the house to the City of Greenville and Pitt County to serve as the Eastern Office of Archives and History. Unfortunately, in recent years the house has fallen into disrepair. Working with the Humber family, the Office of Archives and History agreed to accept the property if the city and county each provided \$50,000 for badly needed repairs. While that money will not complete all of the repairs, it will stabilize the structure until further funds are identified. In the meantime the Eastern Office now has a permanent home.

Two Civil War battlefields also associated with Sherman's Carolinas campaign have received further protection. A cooperative agreement between the Department of Cultural Resources, the U.S. Commodity Credit Corporation, and the Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT) will preserve important parts of Averasboro Battlefield from future development. Under the agreement the CWPT will receive approximately \$175,000 from the Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program to purchase easements from local landowners within the boundaries of the battlefield. The department will hold the easements.

Finally, Bentonville Battlefield (formerly called Bentonville Battleground), a state historic site categorized as one of the nation's most endangered battlefields, will expand by 313 acres. The North Carolina Natural Heritage Trust granted \$414,000 to the CWPT so that the latter could qualify for a larger federal grant. With those funds the CWPT will purchase land from local property owners within the boundaries of the 6,000-acre battlefield. Eventually, the CWPT will transfer the land to the state historic site for further interpretation and preservation.

On November 19, 2003, the North Carolina Historical Commission approved these transactions. Future generations of North Carolinians will benefit from the decisions we make today to preserve the state's history.

Jeffrey J. Crow

Mark E. Bradley, a graduate student at the University of North Carolina (UNC) at Chapel Hill, for "This Monstrous Proposition": North Carolina and the Confederate Debate on Arming the Slaves," which appeared in the April 2003 issue of the *NCHR*. The Hugh T. Lefler Award for the best paper written by an undergraduate student went to Timothy J. Williams for "Literary Societies at Wake Forest College," completed while he was enrolled at Wake Forest University. Like Bradley, Williams is now a history graduate student at UNC-Chapel Hill.

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) Award for Juvenile Literature, given annually since 1953, went to



Esther Lumsdon (*left*) presents the AAUW Award for Juvenile Literature to Michelle Groce (*right*) for her book, *Jasper*.

Michelle Groce of Cornelius for *Jasper* (Novello Festival Press, 2003). Esther Lumsdon of the Raleigh branch of the AAUW made the presentation.

Jeffrey J. Crow, deputy secretary of the North Carolina Office of Archives and History, presented an American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) Award of Merit to the Warren County Historical Association for publication of *The Architecture of Warren County, North Carolina, 1770s to 1860s.* Accepting the award were author Kenneth McFarland and Richard Hunter, clerk of Warren County Superior Court. Another certificate of merit recipient, Kingston Heath of UNC-Charlotte, recognized for his book, *The*



Author Kenneth McFarland (center) and Richard Hunter (right), accepting on behalf of the Warren County Historical Association, hold AASLH Awards of Merit for the publication of The Architecture of Warren County, North Carolina, 1770s to 1860s. Jeffrey J. Crow (left) presented the awards.

Patina of Place, was not present. Receiving AASLH certificates of commendation were the Centennial Committee of the North Carolina Nurses Association and Nursing Board for a documentary, the Old West Durham Neighborhood Association for a website, the North Carolina Museum of History for the exhibit Man-Made Marvels, and the Carteret County Historical Association for development of The History Place. Audrey Booth accepted on behalf of the nurses' organization, John Schelp and Pamela Spaulding for the Durham group, and Martha Tracy for the Museum of History.

In the first of two afternoon presentations, Elizabeth A. Fenn of Duke University addressed "Pox Americana: The Great Smallpox Epidemic of 1775-1782." At the conclusion of a brief business meeting of the NCLHA, Joe A.

Mobley, former administrator of the Historical Publications Section, moderated a panel discussion on "*The Way We Lived in North Carolina*: A Twenty-Year Retrospective." Sharing the stage were Sydney Nathans of Duke University and Harry L. Watson of UNC-Chapel Hill, contributors to the original series, and William S. Price Jr. of Meredith



Novelist Randall Kenan delivers the inaugural Keats and Liz Sparrow Keynote Address at the joint annual meeting of NCLHA and FNCHS.

College who, as director of the Division of Archives and History in 1983, guided the project that resulted in the award-winning five-volume series.

The evening portion of the meeting began with a social hour and dinner, followed by the inaugural Keats and Liz Sparrow Keynote Address by novelist Randall Kenan of Chapel Hill. In a talk filled with humor and recommendations of books, Kenan bemoaned the fact that American fiction writers, particularly in the South, rarely move outside the realm of social realism into the type of magic realism skillfully practiced by Latin American writers.

Announcements of awards resumed after the talk, beginning with the presentation by Jo Ann Williford of the Albert Ray Newsome Awards, bestowed annually by the FNCHS to the historical organizations in North Carolina judged to have conducted the most comprehensive and outstanding programs in local or community historical activities during the previous year. The winners were the Warren County Historical Association for a comprehensive architectural survey, the Gates County Historical Society for a wide range of activities, and the Sankofa Center in Wake Forest for sponsorship of the North Carolina Rosenwald Schools Community Project. Accepting for the Warren group was Richard Hunter, for the Gates organization, Erin Seiling, and for the Sankofa Center, Nyoni Collins.

Sue Hatcher of the Historical Book Club of Greensboro presented the Sir Walter Raleigh Award for Fiction to Pamela Duncan of Graham for her novel, *Plant Life* (Delacorte Press, 2003). Sally Buckner of Raleigh presented the fiftieth Roanoke-Chowan Award for Poetry to Michael Chitwood of Chapel Hill for *Gospel Road Going* (Tryon Publishing Company, 2002).

Presiding over the evening's festivities was Jerry C. Cashion, president of the NCLHA, who announced the winner of the first Ragan Old North State Award for Nonfiction. The prize is named for Sam Ragan (1915–1996), poet, critic, first secretary of the Department of



(Above) Pamela Duncan (right), author of Plant Life, holds the Sir Walter Raleigh Award for Fiction. Sue Hatcher (left) of the Historical Book Club of Greensboro made the presentation. (Below) Sally Buckner presents the fiftieth Roanoke-Chowan Award for Poetry to Michael Chitwood, author of Gospel Road Going.



Cultural Resources, and longtime booster of arts and letters in North Carolina. The new award is the successor to the Patterson Cup, presented by the NCLHA between 1905 and 1922, and the Mayflower Cup, awarded from 1931 to 2002. The Society of Mayflower Descendants withdrew sponsorship of the award for nonfiction (see *Carolina Comments*, October 2002, or http://www.ah.dcr.state.nc.us/affiliates/lit-hist/awards/awards.htm). Taking the



Jerry C. Cashion (*left*) awards the inaugural Ragan Old North State Award for Nonfiction to Timothy Silver (*right*) for his book, *Mount Mitchell and the Black Mountains*.

inaugural honor was Timothy Silver of Boone, a professor at Appalachian State University specializing in environmental history for his book, Mount Mitchell and the Black Mountains: An Environmental History of the Highest Peaks in Eastern America (UNC Press, 2003).

The R. Hunt Parker Memorial Award, bestowed annually by the NCLHA for significant lifetime contributions to the literary heritage of North Carolina, went to Wilma Dykeman of Asheville, novelist, historian, and pioneer environmentalist. Robert Anthony, curator of the North Carolina Collection at UNC-Chapel Hill, made the presentation. In the final ceremony of the evening, Cashion, as chairman of the North Carolina Historical Commission, presented the Christopher Crittenden Memorial Award jointly to Catherine Bishir and Michael Southern, both

of the State Historic Preservation Office, the former recently retired. The two were honored for lengthy careers dedicated to the documentation and preservation of the architectural heritage of the state, culminating in the publication by UNC Press of a three-volume series of guidebooks. The award, presented annually since 1970, recognizes lifetime contributions to the preservation of North Carolina history, and honors Crittenden, director of the Department of Archives and History from 1935 to 1968. Bishir and Southern were likewise honored in September by the Southeastern Society of Architectural Historians, which presented the authors of the outstanding series of architectural guidebooks with a special award at the annual meeting of the society in Savannah, Georgia.

N.C. Literary and Historical Association Life Members

The constitution of the North Carolina Literary and Historical Association provides that a complete listing of the organization's life members be published annually in *Carolina Comments*. The following listing reflects that membership as of September 1, 2003.

J. W. Abernathy Jr.
Bass Farms, Inc.
Jackson Bebber
Mrs. John Behnken
Irwin Belk
John M. Belk
Doris Betts
Mrs. Karl Bishopric
Elizabeth Buford
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph B.
Cheshire Jr.

Dr. James W. Clark
Walter Clark
James A. Clodfelter
Mr. and Mrs. Marion S.
Covington
Mr. and Mrs. William N.
Craig
Grover C. Criswell
Mrs. Burke Davis
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Dillard
Dixon III

Dr. John E. Dotterer
Thomas A. Gray
J. W. Grisham
Margaret Harper
Mrs. Joseph H. Hayworth
High Point University
George Watts Hill
Dr. and Mrs. Lara G. Hoggard
Mr. and Mrs. Robert S.
Hudgins
John L. Humber

Jerome Janssen
Dr. Thomas E. Jeffrey
Dr. H. G. Jones
Dr. Doris King
Dr. Richard H. Kohn
Calvin Battle Koonce
Marvin B. Koonce Jr.
Mrs. Walter McEachern
Dr. Donald Mathews
Mrs. Fred W. Morrison
Miss Jesse R. Moye
Hugh H. Murray

Dr. Susan K. Nutter
Dr. William C. Powell
William S. Powell
Dr. Norris W. Preyer
Alfred L. Purrington III
Robert A. Ragan
W. Trent Ragland Jr.
John Dillard Reynolds
William Neal Reynolds II
David T. Richardson
Richard Richardson

John Charles Rush Robert G. Scruggs Tony Seamon George Shinn Dr. W. Keats Sparrow Roy Thompson Mrs. J. Fred Von Canon Elizabeth C. Watson Dr. Harry Watson Bruce E. Whitaker Dr. Pepper Worthington

Bentonville Battlefield to Acquire More Land

A state grant of \$414,000 will enable the recently renamed Bentonville Battlefield State Historic Site to more than double the acreage under its protective care. The grant was awarded to the Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT) by the North Carolina Natural Heritage Trust Fund, which was established by the General Assembly in 1987 to facilitate the acquisition by designated agencies, including the Department of Cultural Resources, of state parks, nature preserves, and historic sites. Earlier this year, the CWPT included Bentonville among the ten most endangered Civil War battlefields, threatened by creeping development from the Research Triangle. The award was announced at a September 12 news conference at the visitor center. Former congressman J. Alex McMillan, author and mapmaker Mark A. Moore of the Research Branch, and site manager Donny Taylor were the featured speakers.

The state grant will qualify the CWPT for a federal grant of \$683,000 from the American Battlefield Protection Program of the National Park Service. An additional \$269,000 must then be raised by the CWPT to complete the funding with which to purchase 313 acres in scattered parcels along Harper House Road, east of the visitor center. When the sale is finalized, the land will then be turned over to the state.

The Battle of Bentonville on March 19-21, 1865, encompassed 6,000 acres in southern Johnston County. The state began acquiring the battleground in 1957, and the site has grown incrementally over the years to the current holding of 233 acres. The pending acquisition contains remnants of earthworks constructed by both armies. The battlefield was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1996. At its November meeting, the North Carolina Historical Commission approved a proposal to change the name of the site from "Battleground" to "Battlefield," more accurately reflecting the enormous historical importance of the battle.

Revised Edition of The Way We Lived in North Carolina Published

The North Carolina Office of Archives and History and UNC Press have collaborated to issue a revised and updated single-volume edition of *The Way We Lived in North Carolina*, originally published in 1983 in five volumes. Edited by Joe A. Mobley, the new edition includes a set of twenty-eight full-page maps produced by Mark A. Moore, Archives and History research historian and web-master.

The first edition rode the crest of enthusiasm for social history, appearing in an era when professors, graduate students, and public historians in increasing numbers were looking at the past from the perspective of the common man and woman. The concept for the series was novel but simple: weaving research and interpretation around dozens of historic sites, the authors created a social history of North Carolina from pre-colonial times to the present.

Underwritten in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the original publication of *The Way We Lived in North Carolina* was the culmination of a six-year project. Larry Misenheimer, then assistant administrator of the Historic Sites Section, and William S. Price Jr., director of Archives and History, served as principal consultants. They persuaded Sydney Nathans, a history professor at Duke University but not at that point in his career a specialist in the Tar Heel State, to serve as general editor. That "outsider" perspective proved invaluable, making the series especially useful to the reader with no preconceptions about the state's past.

The first edition met a ready audience. Historian Guion Griffis Johnson, who in the 1930s had pioneered the study of social history with her *Ante-Bellum North Carolina*, hailed the series and credited the authors for their ability to encapsulate the central themes of state history and identify the critical forces at work. The American Historical Association in 1984 honored the series with the James Harvey Robinson Prize.

The new edition preserves the organizational arrangement of the original, with five discrete parts prepared by historians Elizabeth A. Fenn and Peter H. Wood, Harry L. Watson, Thomas H. Clayton, Sydney Nathans, and Thomas C. Parramore. Editor Mobley extended the original story down to the present, incorporated into the main text sidebars prepared by Jean B. Anderson for the original volumes, and selected hundreds of new photographs.

Mark A. Moore, responsible for creating the maps for the new edition, has also designed a website accessible at www.waywelivednc.com, or by links on the Archives and History site, www.ah.dcr.state.nc.us. The site is intended to complement the book and to extend its audience. On the website are the full set of specially designed maps, approximately 20 percent of the text, and over one hundred photographs from the book. Students of state history, or anyone anticipating a visit to one of the state's twenty-seven historic sites, will find the website a useful portal through which to learn more about North Carolina's past and to plan their field trips.

Jeffrey J. Crow notes that the new edition appears in the agency's centennial year. Founded in 1903 as the North Carolina Historical Commission, Archives and History, in the words of longtime director Christopher Crittenden, was an advocate of "history for all the people." *The Way We Lived in North Carolina*, in Crow's estimation, "embodies what Archives and History has done for a century so well."

The book, available in hardcover (\$34.95) and paperback (\$24.95), can be ordered directly from UNC Press, P.O. Box 2288, Chapel Hill, NC 27515-2288, or can be purchased at bookstores throughout the state. The companion website is now online.

Hurricane Isabel Batters Sites, Museums, and Historical Markers

On September 18, Hurricane Isabel struck North Carolina, making landfall over the Outer Banks and northern coast. Some of the most severe destruction occurred in Dare and Chowan Counties, each with a state historic site. Northeastern sites escaped serious damage but had numerous downed trees, loss of power, and minor damage to buildings. Somerset Place lost approximately thirty-five trees, while more than two hundred fell at Roanoke Island Festival Park (RIFP).

Historic Edenton was perhaps the worst hit. The town was heavily damaged, with numerous trees down. The chimney collapsed on the Ziegler House, home to the visitor center, so division craftsmen covered part of the roof with a tarpaulin to prevent further injury. The Iredell House had ceiling, plaster, and fence damage. The 1782 Barker House sustained serious damage and remains closed indefinitely: the house was flooded waist-deep and a three-by-five-foot hole was torn in the siding on the southeast corner of the building. At the 1767 Chowan County Courthouse, a falling tree damaged a new ramp

and stairway. The gutters and the edge of the roof on the rear of the building were also damaged. The entire site lost power for about a week. The North Carolina Forest Service, the National Guard, and staff from other sites helped cut and remove trees and debris for days. The visitor center reopened on September 29.

The Outer Banks History Center (OBHC) in Manteo was significantly impacted by the hurricane. All OBHC staff assisted with preparations for the storm on September 14-15. The State



Workers remove a tree from the side of the Ziegler House, the visitor center for Historic Edenton. Note the collapsed chimney on the roof.

Archives' van was dispatched to Manteo and selected collections were transported to Raleigh as a precautionary measure on September 15. The NASA exhibit was dismounted and moved to a secure and climatically stable National Park Service facility on the island's northern end. The center closed to the public at noon on September 16 when Dare County officials ordered mandatory evacuations from Roanoke Island. While the center lost power for several days, the stack area remained secure, and no harm was done to any of the archival and library holdings by adverse environmental conditions.



This fallen tree across the railing of the porch of a shed was one of more than two hundred toppled by Hurricane Isabel at Roanoke Island Festival Park.

The hurricane did no structural damage to buildings or the *Elizabeth II* at RIFP, but power was out for five days, and downed pines, cedars, and myrtles blocked every path in the interpretive area and rendered the boardwalks impassable. Many more trees leaned precariously throughout the site. The grounds needed extensive cleanup before the site was safe for visitors. The staffs of RIFP, the OBHC, and other historic sites along with community volunteers pitched in with the grounds work and tree clearance during the week of September 22-26. The NASA

exhibit was reinstalled in the OBHC gallery on September 26 to be ready for the reopening of the park the following day. The OBHC reopened on September 29.

Scores of trees and power lines were down in the vicinity of Historic Halifax, closing highways. Shingles were blown off historic buildings, and a window was damaged at the Montfort House. Power was restored after five days. Staff and inmates undertook light debris removal. At Somerset Place, miraculously, there was no damage to buildings, although about twenty of the very large cypress trees, some more than 350 years old, were down along roads and canals, and in the yard. The site and many homes in the isolated area remained without power for more than a week. The National Guard distributed water and ice. Historic Bath suffered tree damage, particularly at St. Thomas Church, and minor water damage at two houses. Tryon Palace lost some trees, but historic buildings were high enough above the Trent River to escape flooding. Damage in the southeast at Aycock Birthplace, Bentonville Battlefield, Brunswick Town, CSS *Neuse*, and Fort Fisher

was minor. In the Piedmont several sites lost a few trees or power for a few days but had no significant damage.

Two of the three state maritime museums felt the fury of Isabel. The museum boatshop on Roanoke Island suffered such extensive structural damage that the building, owned by the Town of Manteo, was condemned. Branch manager Scott Whitesides had to move to an office in RIFP, where he can be reached at (252) 475-1500, ext. 241. The main building of the maritime museum in Beaufort lost only a few shingles. But across the



This fence along the carriage road at Somerset Place was severely damaged by fallen trees and high winds during the hurricane.

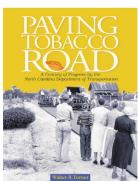
street, a number of piers supporting the decks behind the Watercraft Center were broken, while the center received an unscheduled sand blasting and will require a new coat of paint. The N.C. Maritime Museum at Southport emerged from the storm unscathed.

The State Highway Historical Marker Program also suffered the effects of the high winds. The northeastern corner of the state, particularly Dare, Currituck, Chowan, and Bertie Counties, received the brunt of the damage. In Edenton two markers, dedicated to Francis Corbin and Thomas C. Manning, were snapped, the latter inadvertently by local clean-up crews. Thirty marker posts were broken, the bulk of those on the Outer Banks. The N.C. Department of Transportation, co-sponsor of the program along with the Office of Archives and History, agreed to apply Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funds to the repair and replacement costs. Total damages to signs and posts as a result of Hurricane Isabel are estimated at \$10,000-\$12,000. Even at that, the damages did not match the toll of Hurricanes Bertha and Fran in 1996. Those storms snapped markers primarily across the central coast and in the Cape Fear region, resulting in more than forty broken markers.

Department of Transportation History Jointly Published

How did North Carolina triumph over Tennessee for a major portion of the Blue Ridge Parkway during the Great Depression? Why did the state aggressively pave rural highways following World War II but underestimate the growing importance of interstates? What influences led the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) to escalate highway construction while beginning to develop alternative public transportation in the closing years of the twentieth century?

These questions and others are answered in a new book, *Paving Tobacco Road: A Century of Progress by the North Carolina Department of Transportation*, written by Walter R. Turner, historian at the North Carolina Transportation Museum (NCTM). This book traces the development of the agency from its beginnings in 1915 as the North Carolina State Highway Commission through the first years of the twenty-first century. Its publication was a cooperative effort between the Historical Publications Section of the Division of Historical Resources, the Administrative Section and the NCTM (both within the Division of State Historic Sites), and the NCTM Foundation. Funding was provided by the foundation.



Paving Tobacco Road tells the story of how North Carolina developed the reputation in the 1920s as "The Good Roads State." One chapter is devoted to alternative modes of public transportation, including the state's ferry, bicycle, and rail programs. Turner identifies many of the leaders, both political and professional, who helped create North Carolina's extensive transportation network. D. G. Martin, moderator of UNC-TV's Bookwatch, calls the book "a must read for anyone who wants to understand why North Carolina's image changed from the 'Rip Van Winkle' state to 'leader of the New South.'"

This title is annotated and indexed and includes appendixes that list highway fund



Lyndo Tippett (*left*), secretary of the North Carolina Department of Transportation, looks on as Governor Michael F. Easley (*left center*) accepts a copy of *Paving Tobacco Road* from author Walter Turner (*right center*) and Jeffrey J. Crow (*right*), deputy secretary of the Office of Archives and History.

revenues through 2002. A selected bibliography provides sources for further reading on transportation history. The text is illustrated by more than ninety black-and-white pictures, including many early-twentieth-century photographs never before published, and a dozen attractive maps, drawn by Mark A. Moore of the Division of Historical Resources, Brian Padfield of NCDOT, and others.

Paving Tobacco Road (181 pages, paperback, illustrated, indexed) sells for \$26.75 plus \$5.00 shipping. Order from the Historical Publications Section (CC), Office of Archives and History, 4622 Mail Service Center, 120 West Lane Street, Raleigh, NC 27699-4622. For credit card (VISA and MasterCard) orders, visit the Historical Publications Shop at http://store.yahoo.com/nc-historical-publications/ or call (919) 733-7442.

Duke Homestead Preserves Tobacco Heritage

In a time when the tobacco auction system has all but disappeared and mechanization has replaced traditional harvesting methods, visitors to Duke Homestead can still hear the chant of the auctioneer, see a mule trudge through the field as men harvest leaves by hand, and smell wood burning as the curing barn is filled with green tobacco. Duke Home-



Thomas Ellis and Wilson Crabtree, volunteers at Duke Homestead, demonstrate the nearly forgotten art of tobacco looping at the Tobacco Harvest Festival.

stead's 2003 Tobacco Harvest Festival and Mock Tobacco Auction on September 20 evoked such traditional tobacco farm life. Visitors not only viewed the harvest, but some participated in a tobacco looping contest. Others enjoyed the foods cooked over an open fire and woodstove, tours of the historic area, and bluegrass entertainment. Children played nineteenth-century games and took turns doing laundry at the washboard. Professor Robert Durden of Duke University was on hand to autograph his new book, *Bold Entrepreneur: A Life of James B. Duke*.

The rapid disappearance of the tobacco auction system led the Duke Homestead

Education and History Corporation (DHEHC) to organize a Tobacco Auctioneers and Ticket Markers Reunion in 2002. With a grant from the N.C. Humanities Council, the corporation hired two oral historians to interview six auctioneers: Jimmy Joliff, at eighty, the oldest known auctioneer; Stuart Cutts, an auctioneer whose father and son both worked as auctioneers; Bob Cage, a world champion auctioneer; Sherwood Stewart, who sold tobacco for forty-two years; Edward Stephenson, whose father and uncles were all in the tobacco business; and Jane Squires, the first female auctioneer.

The interviews, now available at the site library, offer rare glimpses into a vanishing profession. Most auctioneers became interested in the craft because of family connections to tobacco. Stephenson heard his father practice his chant daily in the morning shower. Cutts's father also was an auctioneer who chanted at home and encouraged his son to try it. Squires's father was an auctioneer as well. The auctioneers learned the trade primarily by observation. Stewart attended an auctioneering school; at fourteen he was the youngest student. Squires took a licensing exam in South Carolina and apprenticed with an auctioneer for a season. Auctioneering was more than a fast and musical chant. With hundreds of thousands of pounds of tobacco to sell in a few hours, auctioneers kept the flow of the sale moving. They had to catch all bids accurately, a challenge when there were a dozen buyers with different styles of bidding. Even more complicated was keeping track of "take-outs," traditions for allowing successive purchases by the same buyers. Also vital was maintaining good relationships with both buyers and farmers. The auctioneers fondly remembered the old auction days. "A big circus atmosphere," Stephenson recalled. "You . . . had your whole family. . . . waiting to get your check to go to town to buy your kids new clothes. . . . The peanut man was there and the lemonade man. And music!" Durham had three sets of buyers attending sales at three different places simultaneously. Opening day was so important that state officials and the media attended. Today the atmosphere of the few surviving auctions is subdued. Long-standing family traditions of working in tobacco are disappearing.

Since 1972 the DHEHC has collected artifacts related to the state's tobacco heritage. The corporation has perhaps the country's finest collection of tobacco manufacturing equipment and one of the best assemblages of farming implements. Recent donors include David May of Durham, who gave a large painting of a tobacco farm. More than fifty years ago, artist Phil Brinkman depicted men working at a curing barn and grading bench with a mule pulling a tobacco sled in the background. The painting will be displayed in the museum's auditorium. Bill Pope of Kernersville has donated a collection of more than fifty different items of R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company memorabilia accumulated by his late sister, Etta Mae Pope, a longtime Reynolds employee. The collection ranges from a Joe Camel coffee mug to a box of Apple Sun Cured plug tobacco. Tobacco Associates, Inc., of Washington, D.C., with a Raleigh office managed by Charlie King, offered another unique donation—a large painting by Allen Montague of the five major stages of modern tobacco processing: seedling production in the greenhouse, transplanting in the field, mechanical harvesting, selling at the warehouse, and container shipping.



This large mural by Phil Brinkman was recently donated to Duke Homestead by David May and will be displayed in the site's auditorium.



News from Historical Resources

Archives and Records Section

Staff of the Archives and Records Section assisted several local officials prior to the arrival of Hurricane Isabel on September 18. Town clerks from Manteo, Atlantic Beach, and Pinetops received disaster preparedness information in advance of the storm. On September 22, following Isabel's departure from North Carolina, four members of the section lent their expertise to officials in Swan Quarter, county seat of Hyde County, where the courthouse had been flooded by three feet of water. In the register of deeds' office, approximately twenty three-ring binders, containing original marriage licenses, were disassembled and the individual documents laid flat to dry. Staff advised the register, the clerk of superior court, and the tax administrator on methods for freeze-drying loose papers and bound volumes. The director of the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), John Kennedy, joined in discussions with the clerk of superior court on the expedient and proper processes for saving late-nine-teenth-century books. Michael J. Unruh, records officer for the AOC, also visited the courthouse and brought back to Raleigh forty-three boxes of original wills, special proceedings case files, and civil and criminal case files that did not get wet. Those records were scheduled for ultimate transfer to the Archives and will be re-boxed and inspected by the archival staff.

The North Carolina State Archives has posted several additional collections in its Manuscript and Archives and Reference System (MARS) online catalog. The colonial governors' papers have been described to the item level, and digitized copies of the documents have been linked to each description. Also, approximately 150 early North Carolina maps have been digitized and are likewise linked to their descriptions in MARS. These items may be searched and viewed at http://www.ncarchives.dcr.state.nc.us.

The Friends of the Archives (FOA) sponsored two internships this fall. Christine Granquist, a first-year student in the School of Information and Library Science (SILS) program at UNC-Chapel Hill, indexed and scanned more than 1,200 snapshots from the Blue Ridge Parkway Photograph Collection. In addition, Granquist created a complete finding aid to the collection, which will link to the digitized photographs. She also scanned approximately two hundred documents from the colonial governors' papers for presentation on the Web. Anna Kempl, another student in the SILS program, began work on September 30 as the T. Harry Gatton intern. She scanned representative samples from the H. S. Brimley Photograph Collection and converted the Brimley finding aid to EAD.XML. Kempl also encoded the Gertrude Weil Collection finding aid to EAD.XML. Both finding aids and images should be available soon in the Archives online catalog.

On October 11, Jesse R. "Dick" Lankford presented a workshop at the North Carolina Museum of History on "Preserving Your Family Photos." A brief slide show and examples of historic types of photographs were shown to nearly fifty attendees. Lankford examined private photos and offered suggestions for their preservation and storage.

Just three weeks after dealing with Hurricane Isabel, the Outer Banks History Center (OBHC) hosted the fall meeting of the Society of North Carolina Archivists (SNCA) on October 9-10. Assistant curator Sarah Downing served on the program committee and conducted a workshop with Janis Holder, university archivist at UNC-Chapel Hill, titled "From Memories to History: An Introduction to Oral History." Curator KaeLi Spiers handled local arrangements and moderated a panel discussion attended by representatives from the First Flight Centennial Commission, the National Park Service (NPS), the First Flight Society, the Wright Flight program, and Icarus International. Speakers included distinguished authors David Stick, Kevin Duffus, and Dr. Patricia Click. Roanoke Island Festival Park and the N.C. Aquarium on Roanoke Island waived fees for the use of their facilities by SNCA attendees. Doug Stover provided an exclusive tour of the NPS museum storage facility. Many participants also availed themselves of a behind-the-scenes tour of the OBHC. The center's support group, the OBHC Associates, helped underwrite an evening reception for SNCA at the aquarium.

Recent Accessions by the North Carolina State Archives

During the months of September, October, and November 2003, the Archives and Records Section made 219 accession entries. The Archives received security microfilm of records for Alamance, Buncombe, Cabarrus, Catawba, Chatham, Cumberland, Durham, Gates, Greene, Guilford, Henderson, Johnston, Jones, Madison, McDowell, Mecklenburg, Montgomery, Moore, Nash, New Hanover, Northampton, Onslow, Orange, Pamlico, Pasquotank, Pender, Person, Pitt, Polk, Randolph, Richmond, Rockingham, Rutherford, Sampson, Scotland, Stanly, Stokes, Surry, Transylvania, Union, Wake, Watauga, Wayne, Wilkes, Wilson, Yadkin, and Yancey Counties; and for the municipalities of Asheville, Brevard, Clayton, Clemmons, Cleveland, Fletcher, High Point, Hillsborough, Kill Devil Hills, Manteo, Mint Hill, Monroe, Morehead City, Nags Head, Oxford, Saint James, Shallotte, Wake Forest, and Zebulon.

The section accessioned records from the following state agencies: Department of Administration, 2 reels; Department of Insurance, 39 reels; Department of Transportation, 23 reels; Governor's Office, 30.8 cubic feet; State Board of Education, 1 cubic foot; and State Treasurer, 85 reels.

The William B. Grady Letters, the Joseph H. Hubbard Letter, the James A. May Letter, the Houston Family Letters, the Hugh A. Crawford Letter, the Sarah J. C. Whittlesey Letters, the Coltrane Family Papers, the Lott Family Papers, and the John M. Turner Letter were accessioned as new private collections. Additions were made to the Samuel A. Ashe Papers, the William Joslin Papers, the Slave Collection, and the Miscellaneous Papers. The W. C. Perry Account Book and the ERA Transient Accounts were added to the collection of account books. Other records accessioned included 4 Bible Records; 2 volumes of Cemetery Records; 5 volumes of Church Records; 67 audio- and 16 videotaped interviews, and 1,316 other items, added to the Military Collection; 1 issue added to the Newspaper Collection; and 3 original prints and 5.5 cubic feet of aerial photographs added to the Non-textual Materials Collection.

Historical Publications Section

A new booklet from the Office of Archives and History illustrates and describes some of the largest and most significant commemorative celebrations at the site of the Wright Brothers' first flight. "By Dauntless Resolution and Unconquerable Faith": Selected Anniversary Celebrations at the Site of the Wright Brothers' First Flight, 1928-1978, by Stephen E. Massengill,

is illustrated with fourteen photographs taken at several of the celebrations held in North Carolina during those years. The title derives from the inscription at the base of the Wright Brothers National Memorial at Kill Devil Hills. The booklet is a reprint (1,000 copies) of an article by the same title that appears in the October 2003 issue of the *North Carolina Historical Review (NCHR)*. The book (29 pages, paperback, illustrated, indexed) sells for \$5.35 plus \$5.00 shipping. The October issue, which contains two additional articles, numerous book reviews, and an index to Volume 80 of the *NCHR* (2003), sells for \$8.00.

Plans are afoot to bring back into print all of the volumes in the *North Carolina Troops*, 1861-1865: A Roster series. Broadfoot Publishing Company, which assisted in printing some of the earlier volumes, will be working with the section to complete this project. The schedule calls for two volumes to be printed every other month beginning in February, so that all volumes will be available by February 2005. If you are interested in being included on a publication notification list, please contact the section administrator by e-mail at donna.kelly@ncmail.net, or by phone at (919) 733-7442.

The section's new online store has been a roaring success. In the three months since its inception in early September, nearly \$3,000 in revenue has been received through the website. Most of the section's books, maps, and posters may now be purchased there, and in the coming months every item in the inventory will be available. Also contributing to a high level of receipts during this period, sales over the ten days of the North Carolina State Fair totaled \$16,897. Virtually every section staff member, in addition to Jo Ann Williford of Archives and History administration and Jesse R. Lankford of the Archives and Records Section, helped sell books at the fair.

Two reprints are now available from the section. *Triumph at Kitty Hawk: The Wright Brothers and Powered Flight*, by Thomas C. Parramore, was reprinted (3,000 copies) in conjunction with the centennial year of the first powered flight at Kitty Hawk. The book (123 pages, paperback, illustrated, indexed) features a new cover. *Greene and Comwallis: The Campaign in the Carolinas*, out of print since 1987, is back in print (1,500 copies). It describes the retreat of Nathanael Greene's Southern Army before Lord Cornwallis's British regulars, culminating in the Battle of Guilford Courthouse. The book (91 pages, paperback, illustrated, indexed) features a new index and a newly designed cover. Each book sells for \$10.70 plus \$5.00 shipping.

All of these items may be ordered from the Historical Publications Section, Office of Archives and History, 4622 Mail Service Center (CC), Raleigh, NC, 27699-4622. For credit card (VISA and MasterCard) orders, visit the online store at http://store.yahoo.com/nc-historical-publications/ or call (919) 733-7442. For walk-in purchases that may include selected discounts, visit the office at 120 West Lane Street, Raleigh, weekdays from 8:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

State Historic Preservation Office

The Robert E. Stipe Professional Award was presented to F. Mitchener "Mitch" Wilds at the annual Preservation North Carolina conference awards dinner in Greensboro on September 12. The award is the highest tribute in the state to working professionals who demonstrate outstanding commitment to historic preservation as part of their job responsibilities. The annual prize honors Robert E. Stipe of Chapel Hill, director of the Division of Archives and History in 1974–1975, educator in the field of historic preservation, and mentor to a generation of preservation professionals in North Carolina.

The prestigious award recognizes the twenty-year impact of Mitch Wilds on the state's historic built environment. He has worked directly with the rehabilitation and restoration of numerous significant state-owned properties, including the State Capitol, the Executive

Mansion, the Chowan County Courthouse, and Old East and Old West at UNC-Chapel Hill. He has provided technical assistance to an even longer list of historic properties owned by local governments and non-profit organizations across the state, such as the

Thomas Day House in Milton, the Mordecai House and the Joel Lane House in Raleigh, City Hall in Statesville, and the Caswell County Courthouse. Wilds has advised the owners or developers of a number of income-producing historic tax credit projects undergoing certified rehabilitation, including the American Tobacco Company Complex in Durham, the Atlantic Bank and Trust Building in Burlington, and Reidsville High School. He has also given technical assistance to hundreds of individuals in North Carolina trying to preserve their historic homes, especially since the introduction in 1998 of the tax credit program for non-income-producing historic structures.



Mitch Wilds (*right*) accepts the Robert E. Stipe Professional Award from Sue Cone (*left*), chairperson of the board of directors of Preservation North Carolina, and Congressman Brad Miller (*center*).

Wilds has been involved in various preservation of the State Historic Preservation Office. He was instrumental in planning the curriculum for the graduate course, "Field Methods in Preservation Technology," offered each summer at Old Salem by UNC-Greensboro. As part of the instruction, he shares his knowledge and experience with the students through a series of superb slide lectures. Wilds also serves as vice-chairman of the Louisburg Historic Preservation Commission.



News from State Historic Sites

Capitol Section

Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens hosted a number of special activities this fall, including MumFest in October, which featured free tours of the gardens ablaze with thousands of chrysanthemums, and a citywide celebration with crafts, rides, games, and entertainment in New Bern's historic downtown. Other programs included several free films, an armchair tour of Airlie Gardens in Wilmington, a guided African American Historic Downtown Walking Tour of New Bern, a lecture by Dr. Freddie Parker of North Carolina Central University on runaway slaves in late-eighteenth- and early-nineteenth-century New Bern, and the palace's annual Jonkonnu event, a slave holiday tradition.

The Wake County Council of Veterans Organizations, Inc., hosted the twenty-second annual Veterans Day Parade and Ceremony on November 11. More than thirty groups,

including the Helping Hands Mission, youth scout organizations, and veterans of World War II, participated in the parade through downtown Raleigh. The termination of the march at the Veterans Memorial on Capitol Square coincided with a flyover by the U.S. Air Force. Retired brigadier general Gary Pendleton, the keynote speaker, briefly addressed the crowd. After the ceremony, the W. G. Enloe High School Band provided a concert of patriotic airs and jazz numbers. The State Capitol, repairs to its water-damaged dome completed and the scaffolding removed, was open for public tours in the afternoon.

The Capital Area Visitor Center (CAVC) in Raleigh is now showing a new twelve-minute orientation film produced by division videographer Cheyney Hales. The new product is on DVD format and replaces an aged slide show and equipment. Hales wrote the script, which Nancy Mansfield of Tryon Palace reviewed, and did most of the video work, with assistance from Jim Willard. Visuals borrowed from previous productions saved a great amount of money. Other expenses were met with a grant that Pat Brock of the CAVC secured from Sprint. The film, "Raleigh, Tar Heel Capital," opens with a brief but enticing mention of the twenty-seven state historic sites around North Carolina and moves quickly to Native American encounters with European settlers. Sketching the settlement and development of the colony, the production then focuses on the founding of Raleigh; the 1831 fire that destroyed the statehouse; the building and contents of the current historic State Capitol; and other historical attractions of the city. The Executive Mansion and major state museums receive attention in the film as well, with views of the seldom-seen private quarters in the mansion.

The CAVC also now has a toll-free line catering to the many school and other groups assisted by visitor center staff. Appropriately, the number is 1-866-SCH-TOUR (724-8687).

The inaugural State Capitol Society Ball was held on December 6, under the \$40,000 marquee sponsorship of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina and support from other friends. Proceeds from the fund-raising event will benefit educational and preservation programs at the 1840 State Capitol, a National Historic Landmark and state historic site. Christmas decorations by the Raleigh Garden Club, a dinner buffet with regional cuisine from the coast to the mountains, and a silent auction were featured at the ball. Leon Jordan's Continentals provided swing music in tents on Capitol Square.

North Carolina Transportation Museum

The museum is pleased to announce receipt of \$85,000 of federal TEA-21 (Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century) enhancement funds for the repair and restoration of steam locomotive No. 604. The N.C. Department of Transportation provided the money. The museum now has a total of \$110,000 for the project.

The always popular Thomas the Tank Engine reappeared at the museum in October for the annual fall program, A Day Out with Thomas. The event included train rides behind Thomas as well as music, storytelling, videos, temporary tattoos, Sir Topham Hatt, and other activities. Thomas the Tank Engine originated in Britain in 1945 when the Reverend Wilbert Audry introduced the character in the first of a series of children's books.

The Santa Train returned to the museum for three special weekends in December. During his visit, Santa rode the train with families and handed out oranges and candy, an old Southern Railway tradition. On the train, children made special holiday ornaments to take home, listened to a reading of the family classic *The Polar Express*, and had pictures taken with Santa.

Northeastern Historic Sites Section

WNET 13 of New York, an award-winning Public Broadcasting System television station, recently taped several segments in Edenton for a documentary on slavery that is currently in production. The four-part series presents slavery from the perspective of the enslaved population based on slave narratives and recent research. A number of Edenton residents took part in the filming. Henry Pillow, retired minister and part-time interpreter at Historic Edenton, effortlessly adopted the role of an Episcopal priest. The circa 1825 Chowan County jail, where slaves were imprisoned in 1831 following the Nat Turner Rebellion, was one of the historic buildings pictured in the film. Students from the College of the Albemarle acted as slaves and jailers. Harriet Jacobs's struggle for freedom is depicted in the series. Born a slave in 1813 in Edenton, she escaped at the age of twentynine and later published her story, *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl.* A middle-school student portrayed Jacobs during her early years in Edenton. St. Paul's Church, where free blacks and slaves, including Jacobs's family, attended services, was also featured in the documentary.

Piedmont Historic Sites Section

Descendants of Quaker John Allen III (1749-1826) recently reunited in Snow Camp to dedicate a private highway historical marker at the original site of the circa 1780 John Allen House, along what is now the Greensboro-Chapel Hill Road near Cane Creek. The Allen House, one of the finest surviving eighteenth-century frontier log dwellings in North Carolina, is an integral part of the interpretation at Alamance Battleground, to which it was relocated in 1965. Restored and opened to the public in 1967, the structure is used to explain domestic life around the time of the Regulator movement and the American Revolution. The home consists of one principal room, an enclosed loft, a cellar, and two sheds. When the family donated the house to the state, they also included period family furnishings that remain inside the structure. John Allen and his wife, Rachel, raised twelve children in the log dwelling. With his Quaker background, Allen would have no involvement in either the Regulator movement or the Battle of Alamance. It is important, however, to note the family's connection with Herman Husband, prominent Regulator leader, who married Allen's sister, Amy.

A total of 1,263 students from eleven North Carolina counties participated in Alamance Battleground's twenty-third annual Colonial Living Week in October. The event gave the young people a true feel and taste of the eighteenth century. Interpreters demonstrated various aspects of colonial life, such as the preparation of food over an open fire, different types of available lighting (candles, Betty lamps, and rush lights), living in a log home, and the process of making apple cider. The operating cider press provided hands-on opportunities, which included sampling the final product, freshly squeezed apple juice. A colonial surveyor and blacksmith discussed and performed their skilled trades. Soldiers talked about life in the colonial militia and demonstrated a musket and a three-pounder cannon. Interpreters introduced students to all kinds of toys of early origin, such as the cup and ball and the whirligig.

African American educator Dr. Charlotte Hawkins Brown's famous etiquette book, *The Correct Thing To Do, To Say, To Wear*, first published in 1941, is available again in paper-back from the Charlotte Hawkins Brown Museum. Decades ago, Brown's Palmer Memorial Institute students used *The Correct Thing* as their behavior and manners handbook. With a foreword by Brown's nieces, the 142-page paperback edition sells for \$16.95 plus tax at the museum. Brown believed that correct behavior was not an issue of skin color, but of right and wrong. At a time when codes of conduct were stricter than they are today, she sought to produce graduates whose education and manners would enable them

to surmount existing racial barriers. The Marion Stedman Covington Foundation of Greensboro funded the reprinting.

An evocative free exhibit of photos of Palmer Memorial Institute students in the late 1940s by groundbreaking African American photographer Griffith Davis was on display at Duke University's Center for Documentary Studies in Durham through January 10. Born on the Morehouse College campus in Atlanta, Griffith Davis (1923–1993) discovered photography in high school. After service in World War II, he earned a degree at Morehouse in 1947. Davis then became *Ebony* magazine's first roving editor. His initial major assignment was a photo essay on Palmer Memorial Institute. The photos Davis snapped appeared in an October 1947 *Ebony* feature on Palmer and its founder, which helped make both famous. Many photos taken for this story were part of the Duke exhibit. The photos ranged from boys and girls bidding each other good night in front of the girls' dorm to a table of students singing grace before sitting down to lunch.

After taking the Palmer photos, Davis attended Columbia University's graduate journalism school—the only African American in his class—and graduated in 1949. He became a photojournalist, with assignments in Africa, Europe, and the U.S. His photos and writings appeared in the *New York Times*, *Der Speigel*, *Ebony*, *Fortune*, *Modern Photography*, *Negro Digest*, and *Time*. From 1952 until his retirement in 1985, Davis was in the U.S. Foreign Service, often stationed in Africa. Today Duke University has Davis's papers and photographs in its library.

On December 14 the Charlotte Hawkins Brown Museum celebrated a Christmas open house in Stouffer Hall on campus. Students from nearby Sedalia Elementary School decorated the museum's outside Christmas tree and areas inside the hall. Dr. Brown's campus home, Canary Cottage, was decorated as it would have been in the 1940s. The afternoon music program included choirs from four local churches and a professional flutist, Kelly Wainscott of Gibsonville.

Town Creek Indian Mound hosted two disparate groups of guests in October. The North Carolina Archaeological Society met there on October 4. The program included an outdoor presentation of ground-penetrating radar applications in archaeology by Dr. Kent Schneider of the U.S. Forest Service. On October 8, nearly eleven hundred cyclists representing forty-three states and three countries arrived at the site, a designated rest stop on a weeklong bike ride from Boone to Oak Island.

Roanoke Island Festival Park

Roanoke Island Festival Park (RIFP), despite damage from Hurricane Isabel, offered its full array of scheduled special performances for the fall. Painter Paul Belote of Virginia, using a variety of medias and impressions, held his art show, *Mystery and Grace*, at the park during September and October. Belote is a graduate of Virginia Commonwealth University and a former advertising art director. His work has been exhibited at the Chrysler Museum of Art and the Peninsula Fine Arts Center.

The Carolista Music Festival was held on October 12 with local and nationally known women performers celebrating the achievements of women of the Outer Banks, particularly Carolista Baum. In the summer of 1973 Baum and her husband awoke to the unusual sound of heavy equipment coming from the direction of the big sand dune now known as Jockey's Ridge State Park. They went out to investigate. According to local tradition, Carolista marched up to the bulldozer, planted herself in its path, and refused to move until the machine was shut down. Later she convinced the N.C. Parks and Recreation Council to endorse Jockey's Ridge for a state park. Artists at the festival included blues musician Rosie Ledet, Julie Clark, who appeared at the Newport Folk Festival, and jazz performer Laura Martier from the Outer Banks.

Mojo Collins, another well-known Outer Banks artist, appeared at RIFP on October 2 to benefit Icarus International, a non-profit organization dedicated to the celebration of the history, beauty, and mystery of flight through art. His compact disk, *Flights of Magic*, features songs about the first flight of Orville and Wilbur Wright. Collins has been performing for over five decades. In November, Elizabethan Tymes: A Country Faire returned to the park. Participants stepped back four hundred years to the Renaissance for a variety of entertainments. Children dressed in Elizabethan garb, made family coats of arms, and learned period dances. Other activities included fencing demonstrations, historic weapons firing, Renaissance music, a pike drill, and a ship battle.



The Guild of St. Andrews of North Carolina, frequent participants in special events at Roanoke Island Festival Park, provided educational entertainment at the Elizabethan Tymes Fair in November.

The twentieth anniversary of the Elizabeth II was celebrated on November 22 at its birthplace, with a daylong birthday party that offered cake, balloons, and free admission. The vessel, an authentic reconstruction of one of the seven ships of Sir Walter Raleigh's 1585 expedition to the New World, was constructed on the Manteo waterfront to commemorate America's 400th anniversary. It was christened by First Lady Carolyn Hunt and launched on November 22, 1983. Barbara Hird, reprising her familiar role as Queen Elizabeth I, welcomed visitors to the birthday festivities. Lisbeth C. Evans, secretary of the Department of Cultural Resources, was guest speaker for the occasion. The captain of the Elizabeth II, Horace Whitfield, presented a history of the vessel, and the Reverend Charles E. B. Gill, rector of Saint Andrews By the Sea Episcopal Church, blessed the ship. Visitors were entertained with period dance lessons, music by Bob Zentz, a historic flag display, an exhibit explaining the construction of the vessel, and interpreters demonstrating maritime activities.

Southeastern Historic Sites Section

The CSS *Neuse* in Kinston hosted its annual Civil War living history program in November, with approximately eighty-five reenactors taking part. An estimated 435 visitors witnessed a number of different activities including rope making, blacksmithing, a period medical display, artillery demonstrations, and infantry drills. Confederate navy and Marine Corps reenactors were also on hand, explaining the role of the two service branches in the Civil War. They taught visitors about shipboard life, uniforms and weapons, navigation, and various other aspects of the naval service. There was also a sutler, an exhibit about the common North Carolina soldier, and five working reproduction artillery pieces on display. The following reenactment/living history groups participated in the event: North

Carolina Naval Squadron; Tidewater Maritime Living History Association; Company E, C.S. Marine Corps; C.S. Marines (Wilmington); Reilly's Battery; Edenton Bell Battery; Ellis's Battery; Company F, 7th North Carolina; 51st North Carolina; Old South Blacksmiths; and the Smithfield Seamstress.

The crew of the North Carolina Naval Squadron, a reenactment group based in Roper, participated in the annual Civil War living history program at the CSS *Neuse*.



USS North Carolina Battleship Memorial

Author James Bradley signed copies of his explosive new book, *Flyboys*, in the battleship visitor center on November 14. The event, part of a thirty-city national tour, was sponsored locally by Bristol Books, Time Warner Cable, and the USS *North Carolina* Battleship Memorial. Bradley's remarks were punctuated with excerpts from a recent Cable News Network documentary about the events chronicled in the book. *Flyboys* reveals the long-buried story of nine U.S. pilots who were shot down while bombing Japanese communications towers on Chichi Jima, an island near Iwo Jima. One of the nine, twenty-year-old George H. W. Bush, was rescued from the waters of the Pacific by the crew of the submarine *Finback*. The other eight airmen were held in captivity on Chichi Jima and ultimately beheaded and cannibalized. Both the American and Japanese governments suppressed the shocking story and the post-war trial of fifteen Japanese held accountable for the atrocity.

Bradley is the author of the best-selling *Flags of Our Fathers*, the study of the six marines immortalized in Joe Rosenthal's Pulitzer Prize-winning photograph of the flag raising on Iwo Jima. Bradley's father was among the six.

Western Historic Sites Section

At Vance Birthplace, award-winning southern author Sharyn McCrumb recently read from the newest novel in her popular Appalachian Ballad series, Ghost Riders, a story of the Civil War in western North Carolina. In Ghost Riders, as in McCrumb's other Ballad novels, the narrative interweaves present-day characters and historical narrators, often with a strong thread of the supernatural and magic realism. Ghost Riders contrasts lingering Civil War legends of Appalachia with the lives of current residents. McCrumb celebrates her ancestors and the mountain land, crafting a story rich with the tradition and spirit of the region. The novel's primary narrators are the historic figures Malinda Blalock and Zebulon Vance. Blalock, a young woman whose husband was forced into the Confederate army, disguised herself as a boy and went with him. In the novel's past, the couple eventually become outlaws who avenge the deaths of their kinfolk at the hands of rebels. In the novel's present, the war is a half-remembered nightmare that lingers in the Confederate flag flying in the yard of a trailer, church names such as Union Baptist, and reenactors who relive the war. Ghost Riders tells of a war that turned neighbors into enemies and left survivors bitter for decades. McCrumb's novels celebrating the history and folklore of Appalachia have received scholarly acclaim and ranking on the New York Times best-seller lists. "My books are like Appalachian quilts," says

McCrumb. "I take brightly colored scraps of legends, ballads, fragments of rural life, and local tragedy, and I piece them together into a complex whole that tells not only a story, but also a deeper truth about the culture of the mountain South." She has written sixteen books

In October hundreds of visitors enjoyed a day of old-fashioned fun and music at the thirteenth annual Cornshucking Frolic at Horne Creek Living Historical Farm. The frolic featured corn shucking, shelling, and grinding, as these tasks were performed at the

Lisa Turney (right), site manager at Horne Creek Living Historical Farm, demonstrates a corn sheller to a young visitor at the annual Cornshucking Frolic.



turn of the twentieth century. Visitors also enjoyed period blacksmithing, quilting, natural dyeing, tobacco curing, woodworking, chair caning, basket making, children's games, apple butter and cider making, wagon rides, and a country store. More than a dozen musical groups performed throughout the day. Guests also toured the Southern Heritage Apple Orchard with Lee Calhoun, orchardist. The frolic's popular cuisine was country cooking, like homemade chicken stew, pinto beans, roasted corn, cornbread, pies, and various beverages. Almost a hundred volunteers helped at the event. "Cornshuckings" or "huskings" were an annual harvest-time tradition from colonial days through the mid-twentieth century. Neighbors and friends shared the work of shucking and separating ears of corn, as well as good food, courting, gossip, tall tales, and fiddle tunes.









News from State History Museums

Museum of the Cape Fear Historical Complex

With limited display space, changing exhibits, and a growing collection, not all of a museum's artifacts are always on view. The fragile condition of some objects requires that they be stored rather than exhibited. But the museum staff occasionally has the opportunity to bring out certain artifacts from storage for the public to see and appreciate. The Museum of the Cape Fear does just that in the exhibit *Treasures From Our Attic*, opening March 13.

The exhibit team combed collections storage areas and perused artifact records to choose objects for this exhibit. From this search, the team selected such items as a sabre bayonet manufactured at the Fayetteville Arsenal during the Civil War, a model railroad locomotive built in the 1930s, women's dresses, World War II uniforms, beds, chairs, dressers, and trunks.

Treasures From Our Attic involves more than displaying seldom-seen artifacts. Informative panels address the purposes of museums, collection goals and policies, artifact preservation, and other issues. The exhibit will run through August 14.

North Carolina Maritime Museum, Beaufort

Construction has begun at the museum's Watercraft Center on a unique vessel that once populated the North Carolina coastal waters. The periauger, or pirogue, a two-masted dugout made from a split cypress log, was the common workboat of the sounds and rivers in the eighteenth century. No physical evidence of the boat has been found, but research

Model of a periauger constructed by Jim Brode, volunteer at the North Carolina Maritime Museum. A full-scale replica of the eighteenth-century workboat is being built this winter at the museum's Watercraft Center.



of contemporary descriptions and illustrations conducted by Michael Alford, former curator of maritime research at the museum and author of *Traditional Workboats of North Carolina*, has informed the design of a reconstructed periauger. The project is a joint effort of the Maritime Museum, the Perquimans County Restoration Association, and the Program in Maritime Studies at East Carolina University (ECU). The vessel will be constructed at the Watercraft Center by volunteers and ECU students, while the oars, sails, and other equipment will be made in Hertford.

The periauger will be thirty feet long, with masts twenty-five feet tall and rowing stations for ten oars. When completed in April 2004, the boat will be moved to the 1730 Newbold-White House in Hertford, where it will become the centerpiece of the Perquimans County Restoration Association's maritime heritage program. The association anticipates that the vessel will provide a dynamic living history experience, visiting port towns in the Albemarle Sound region. The public is invited to Beaufort to view the work in progress, which will provide the museum staff valuable information about boatbuilding methods of the early eighteenth century.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Isabel, the staff of the Maritime Museum initiated a campaign to educate the public about emergency procedures for the recovery of personal cultural materials, such as letters, diaries, photographs, and books. The museum utilized news releases to local media and radio interviews to disseminate their vital message. Unknown to the museum staff, a similar program had already been planned by the National Park Service (NPS) at Cape Lookout National Seashore, in conjunction with the Core Sound Waterfowl Museum. Someone involved in the NPS project heard one of the radio interviews and invited the Maritime Museum to partner in their hurricane recovery venture. In a remarkable interagency cooperative effort, the NPS provided recovery materials and paper and furniture experts from its conservation lab in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia; the Core Sound museum donated its facilities and personnel; the Maritime Museum offered personnel and a van; and North Carolina State University provided freezer space for the conservation of water-damaged books. On October 1-2, representatives from the partnering agencies were on hand at the Waterfowl Museum to evaluate damaged paper artifacts and to offer recommendations for their recovery.

North Carolina Museum of History

The museum hosted the eighth annual American Indian Heritage Celebration on November 22. Festivities included native music, traditional dances, storytelling, hands-on activities, and craft demonstrations, such as pottery making, basket weaving, bead working, and stone carving. The celebration also showcased a new exhibit, *Community and Culture: North Carolina Indians Past and Present*, which opened on October 28. The case exhibit explores how Indians have maintained their traditions through pottery making, the game of stickball, and corn growing. The display features pottery thrown by Senora Lynch of the Haliwa-Saponi tribe and the late Louise Bigmeat Maney of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, Cherokee stickball sticks collected more than a century ago, and historical agricultural photographs.

The Southeastern Museums Conference announced that the exhibit *Man-Made Marvels* won an award in the Curator's Committee Exhibition Competition in the \$25,000-\$100,000 budget category. The museum also received a \$5,000 grant from American Express to underwrite the Third Annual African American Cultural Celebration on January 31. The event's activities, crafts, music, entertainment, and foods reflect North Carolina's rich African American heritage and culture.

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The Museum of History is a member of the North Carolina Craft Coalition, which is sponsoring the "Celebration of North Carolina Craft," a two-year statewide commemoration of Tar Heel craft traditions, artisans, and products. Proclaimed by Gov. Michael F. Easley, the celebration will include craft organization anniversaries, grand openings, special exhibits, and other activities throughout 2004-2005. The North Carolina Craft Coalition, with the support of the North Carolina Arts Council, is made up of nineteen craft organizations united to promote the state as a cultural tourism destination. As part of this effort, the coalition hosts a website, www.discovercraftnc.org, designed to connect prospective tourists with specific information about coalition members.

Lyl MacLean Clinard of High Point, president of the North Carolina Museum of History Associates, announced the establishment of the Associates' first endowment for the museum. The endowment is made possible through a generous \$200,000 pledge from longtime members Nancy and George Lyles, and their daughters, Nan Kester and Lee Webster, all of High Point. Annual interest from the endowment will fund important projects, programs, and artifact purchases at the Museum of History. A first-floor exhibit gallery will be named in honor of the Lyles family. Nancy Lyles was president of the Museum Associates from 1988 to 1989. Her daughters have served as state membership chairs and continue to provide strong support. The Museum Associates, with more than 12,000 members across the state, furnish invaluable assistance to the Museum of History in Raleigh and its six regional museums. The organization also supports local museums, historic sites, and schools across the state.

Staff Notes

David L. S. Brook, administrator of the State Historic Preservation Office, has been named acting director of the Division of Historical Resources. He succeeds David Olson, recently promoted to Deputy Secretary of Arts and Libraries. Brook has been with Archives and History since 1984. He is the author of *A Lasting Gift of Heritage: A History of the North Carolina Society for the Preservation of Antiquities, 1939-1974*, published by the agency in 1997.

In the Division of State Historic Sites, Louise Huston retired in October as site manager at Fort Dobbs, a position she had held since 1987. She was first employed at the site in 1977 as a grounds maintenance person. In recent years, she has been the sole staff member at Fort Dobbs because of budget cuts. Jonathan Matthews has resigned as interpreter I at House in the Horseshoe, and Tammy Medlin as interpreter II at Aycock Birthplace.

At Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens, Lisa J. Wimpfheimer has been hired as horticulturist and head of the Gardens Services Branch. Timothy A. Minch is the new greenhouse manager and Judith H. Bailie the new fund-raising assistant. Linda Stancill retired as greenhouse manager/floral designer. Carl Herko resigned as communications and marketing manager, and Simon Spalding as research historian and character interpreter. Nyal Craig Flowers separated as a painter and was succeeded by Lynn A. Ford. Julie Bledsoe has relocated from the North Carolina Transportation Museum to Tryon Palace, where she will assist the curator of collections while also serving as curator for the northeast region.

Lynn Flora joined the administrative staff of the Office of Archives and History as an office assistant IV, succeeding Tracy Brown, who transferred to the Division of Motor Vehicles. LeRae Umfleet has been hired as a research historian in the Research Branch.

After more than fourteen years with the Archives and Records Section, David Mitchell, assistant state records administrator and head of the Government Records Branch, resigned on November 1 to accept the position of university records manager at Duke University.

	Upcoming Events
January 14	North Carolina Museum of History: History à la Carte: <i>Tiny Broadwick: The First Lady of Parachuting.</i> Author Elizabeth Whitley Roberson offers insights into the adventurous life of Granville County native Georgia Ann "Tiny" Broadwick, the first woman to jump from an aircraft. 12:10 to 1:00 P.M.
January 23	North Carolina Maritime Museum, Beaufort: Microbes: Canaries of the Sea. Dr. Hans Paerl, Kenan Professor of Marine and Environmental Sciences at UNC-Chapel Hill Institute of Marine Sciences at Morehead City, discusses the microscopic indicators of water quality in estuaries. 3:00 P.M.
January 30	Mountain Gateway Museum: <i>Light in the Tunnel: The Building of the Western North Carolina Railroad</i> . Opening of an exhibit that focuses on the dramatic construction of the legendary railroad in the late 1800s, during which convict labor blasted nine tunnels through Old Fort Mountain.
January 31	North Carolina Museum of History: Family Day: African American Cultural Celebration. Popular annual event returns for a third year with a menu of foods, crafts, entertainment, music, and hands-on activities to celebrate North Carolina's African American heritage and culture. 11:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.
February 1	Roanoke Island Festival Park: <i>Window on the World</i> : Photography by Jim Lee. Opening reception for an exhibit of photographs by Jim Lee of Nags Head, featuring scenes from his travels to Australia, Fiji, Cuba, and Mexico. Exhibit will run in the park art gallery through February 24. 4:00 to 6:00 P.M.
February 7	Museum of the Albemarle: Civil War Naval Living History. Program features demonstrations and displays of artillery, navigation, shipbuilding, and medicine, lectures about the war in northeastern North Carolina, and weapons drills. 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. on the museum green.
	North Carolina Museum of History: <i>North Carolina Slave Narratives: The Lives of Moses Roper, Lunsford Lane, Moses Grandy, and Thomas H. Jones.</i> Editor William L. Andrews discusses his compilation of four autobiographies, which exemplified the struggles of slaves and helped strengthen the abolitionist movement. A book signing follows the program. 3:00 P.M.
	Roanoke Island Festival Park: North Carolina School of the Arts Student Film Festival. Fourth annual festival presenting the school's most acclaimed and award-winning student productions. 7:30 P.M.
February 11	North Carolina Museum of History: History à la Carte: Serving in a Segregated Army . Fred Farmer, retired army aviator and paratrooper, shares his experiences in the 555th Parachute Infantry Battalion, an all-African American unit, and as a pilot in the army. 12:10 to 1:00 P.M.

Mitchell will work closely with the university archivist and the director of the Duke Medical Center Archives to assist campus offices with the implementation and administration of a records management program. Ashley Yandle, an archivist with the now defunct records description unit of the Government Records Branch, became the information management archivist in the Information Technology Branch. Her new responsibilities include maintenance of the section website and the MARS database, and the publication of finding aids on the Web in XML format.

Camille Hunt has joined the staff of the North Carolina Museum of History as a museum registrar. Sheila Thomas-Ambat, multimedia producer, has resigned. Ann Kaplan has assumed the position of outreach branch supervisor in the Education Section.

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Upcoming Events	
Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens: African American Historic Downtown Walking Tour . This popular tour of sixteen blocks of historic New Bern returns with the advent of spring. Learn about three hundred years of African American history in this ninety-minute walking tour. 2:00 P.M. \$4 admission fee.	
Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens: 36th Annual Tryon Palace Decorative Arts Symposium . This year's symposium focuses upon the theme of North Carolina arts and crafts. Lectures, tours, and social events are being planned in cooperation with the East Carolina University Division of Continuing Studies.	
Reed Gold Mine: 25th Annual Gold Rush Run. Events include a half marathon, an 8K run, a mile fun run, and a competitive walk. Preregistration by runners is recommended. 8:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. Fee for participants.	
Museum of the Cape Fear Historical Complex: Historical Entertainment. Seasonal celebration of traditional family entertainment in the Victorian era features craft booths demonstrating construction of miniature maypoles, paper dolls, valentine cornucopias, and maple leaf crowns. 1:00 to 5:00 P.M.	
Mountain Gateway Museum: Pioneer Day. Twentieth annual event that features food, craft demonstrations, handcrafted items, and traditional music, including the bluegrass band, Strings of Five. 10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.	
Reed Gold Mine: Heritage Days. Area fourth graders and their teachers learn about North Carolina history and natural resources through craft demonstrations, studies of past life-styles, and tours of the underground facilities. 9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. Fee for panning. Group reservations for panning and tours required. Call Susan Smith at (704) 721-4653 for reservations.	

Colleges and Universities

Barton College

Dr. William Jerry MacLean retired from the Department of History and Social Sciences in May. Oscar Jefferson Broadwater has been named associate professor of history.

Duke University

The Duke University Center for the Study of Medical Ethics and Humanities will host a conference on April 23–25 that will examine the relationships between poetry and medicine. *Vital Lines, Vital Signs* will explore the uses of poetry in the practice of medicine, the influence of medical themes in poetry in different times and cultures, and the theoretical and philosophical connections between the disciplines. A number of internationally renowned authors, poets, and medical professionals, including Rafael Campo, Lucille Clifton, Jack Coulehan, Mark Doty, Li-Young Lee, Kathryn Montgomery, Sharon Olds, Suzanne Poirier, Reynolds Price, Alan Shapiro, and John Stone, are scheduled to participate. For further information, visit the conference website, *http://PoetryandMedicineConference.mc.duke.edu*, or call Megan Davidson at the center, (919) 668–9007.

Mount Olive College

On October 4, Dr. Alan K. Lamm presented a paper titled, "Perfect in Combat: General John A. Logan, 1826–1886," at the 38th annual Northern Great Plains History Conference in Fargo, North Dakota.

Wake Forest University

Two members of the history department presented papers at the Southern Historical Association meeting at Houston in November. J. Howell Smith spoke on "Honorable Beggars: The History of Philanthropy and Fund Raising," and Michele K. Gillespie addressed the topic, "Defining Slavery and Freedom in the Early National South: Runaway White Apprentices in their Own Defense." Two other professors gave presentations in October. William Connell lectured on "It was a Miracle They Did Not Kill Me: Race, Violence, and Legitimacy in Seventeenth-Century Mexico City" to the Reunión de Historiadores Mexicanos, Estadounidenses y Canadienses at Monterrey on October 4. Simone M. Caron addressed the New England Historical Association meeting at Providence, Rhode Island on October 24. Her paper was titled, "Mothers, Doctors, and Neonaticide in Rhode Island, 1874–1938."

Two other members of the department had books published in 2003. Sarah Watts' Rough Rider in the White House: Theodore Roosevelt and the Politics of Desire was published by the University of Chicago Press, while UNC Press published Foul Means: The Formation of a Slave Society in Virginia, 1660-1740 by Anthony S. Parent Jr. The classic four-volume history of Wake Forest College by George W. Paschal and Bynum Shaw is now available on compact disk, with a new introduction by J. Edwin Hendricks.

State, County, and Local Groups

Cape Fear Museum

The science and technology behind everyday devices was the focus of a touring exhibit that opened at the museum on October 1. *How Things Work*, inspired by the book of the same title by eminent physicist Dr. H. Richard Crane, featured the inner works of twenty-one interactive gadgets, including a lock, a light switch, and a traffic signal. The exhibit focused on six primary technological areas—the bimetallic strip, gears and pulleys, locks and brakes, electric generators and motors, the use of electricity, and the generation and control of sound. *How Things Work* was developed by the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum with major funding from the National Science Foundation. The touring exhibition is managed by the Association of Science-Technology Centers, Inc., and sponsored locally by GE Nuclear Energy, WECT, Cumulus Broadcasting, and New Hanover County.

Caswell County Historical Association

Tom Magnuson, founder and director of the Trading Path Preservation Association, was the featured speaker at the October 14 meeting of the historical association. He presented an update on discoveries, both environmental and in the written record, since he last addressed the group in 1999, concerning the divergent routes of the Native American trading path as it coursed through Caswell County.

Chapel Hill Historical Society

The society continues to feature prominent area historians in its monthly programs. On October 19, noted historian and documentary filmmaker Dr. William R. Ferris captivated a full house with a lively and humorous lecture on "Memory and Sense of Place in the American South." The discussion emphasized the importance of music, particularly Mississippi Delta blues, in southern culture. Dr. Ferris musically illustrated his remarks with solo vocal and guitar performances of blues, rock and roll, and country music. Dr. Ferris is the Joel R. Williamson Distinguished Professor of History at UNC-Chapel Hill, senior

associate director of the Center for the Study of the American South, former chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and a fellow of the American Folklore Society.

Dr. Harry L. Watson addressed the society on November 16 with an overview of Orange County history. Dr. Watson has been a professor of history at UNC-Chapel Hill since 1976 and is the director of the Center for the Study of the American South. He specializes in the antebellum South, the Jacksonian era, and North Carolina history.

Lower Cape Fear Historical Society

The society recently announced the online availability of more than 1,200 historic photographs from its archival collection. The photographs date from 1850 and depict a variety of topics of local interest. The society plans to digitize and mount additional photographs from its collection, as well as others as they are donated. The images may be viewed at www.latimerhouse.org/collections/photos.php.

Murfreesboro Historical Association

On September 25, the association celebrated the successful conclusion of its ambitious campaign to provide designated endowment funds for its historic properties, with a cocktail buffet at the Hertford Academy. A total of \$200,000 was pledged to establish individual endowments for the continued maintenance, protection, and enhancement of the Roberts-Vaughan House (ca. 1805), Hertford Academy (ca. 1811), the William Rea Museum (ca. 1790), the Wheeler House (ca. 1810), the Winborne Store and Law Office (ca. 1870), and the Murfree-Smith Law Office (ca. 1800).

Several of these historic structures were showcased in the eighteenth annual Candlelight Christmas Tour on December 8 and 9. As in previous years, the event was a progressive dinner featuring such North Carolina delicacies as seafood bisque, smoked turkey, country ham, and smoked peanuts. Dulcimer and fiddle players, violinists, a handbell choir, and several soloists and quartets performed seasonal music throughout the historic district. Twelve historic buildings, each decorated to illustrate a verse of "The Twelve Days of Christmas," were visited on the tour.

New Bern Historical Society

The society is seeking donations to help underwrite the costs of additional land, an access road, and visitor facilities at the site of the 1862 Battle of New Bern, which opened the door to the Federal occupation of eastern North Carolina during the early days of the Civil War. The society presently owns twenty-four acres of the battlefield, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. To further its dual mission of preserving the site while making it more accessible to the public, the society hopes to raise \$143,000 for the purchase of additional acreage for parking, shelter, restrooms, and recreational facilities. Reenactors of the 26th North Carolina Infantry Regiment, which fought in the battle under the command of Col. Zebulon B. Vance, have already raised a considerable sum towards the erection of a regimental monument at the battlefield park. Contributors of \$125 or more will be acknowledged on a permanent roll of honor to be prominently displayed at the site. To make a pledge, or for further information, write to: New Bern Battlefield Preservation Project, New Bern Historical Society, P.O. Box 119, New Bern, NC 28563.

On September 12, Dr. Newsom Williams, former president of the society, was presented the prestigious Ruth Coltrane Cannon Award for outstanding contributions to historic preservation in North Carolina.

North Carolina Society of Historians

For the second time in four years, military historian Wilbur D. Jones Jr. was honored with two prizes at the society's 62d annual awards banquet in Morehead City. Jones received the Willie Parker Peace History Book Award for *A Sentimental Journey: Memoirs of a Wartime Boomtown*, his social history of the Wilmington home front during World War II. He also earned the D. T. Smithwick Newspaper Article Award for a series of four op-ed pieces in the *Wilmington Star-News* about Wilmingtonians who served in the war. Jones is a native of Wilmington and a retired U.S. Navy captain. He also received two society awards in 1999 for his services as volunteer chairman of the Wartime Wilmington Commemoration coalition.

North Caroliniana Society

The society is currently soliciting grant proposals for the 2004 cycle of Archie K. Davis Fellowships. Designed to encourage research in North Carolina history and culture, the program grants stipends to cover a portion of travel and subsistence expenses while fellows conduct research. More than two hundred fellowships have been awarded since the inception of the program in 1987. The deadline for submission of proposals is March 1. For further information, visit the society's website, <code>www.ncsociety.org</code>, or write to Dr. H. G. Jones, North Caroliniana Society, UNC Campus Box 3930, Chapel Hill, NC 27514–8890.

Phoenix Historical Society of Edgecombe County

On November 22 the society held its annual educational program. An abbreviated genealogy research session provided instruction on the basic steps of tracing an African American family lineage by using comprehensive research methods. Local history researcher C. Rudolph Knight and genealogist Lawrence Jones conducted the workshop for fifteen participants. Dorothy Spruill Redford, executive director of Somerset Place, was the featured speaker. She discussed African American genealogy and the importance of historical objects and structures to mainstream American history. The speech was followed by a reception with a book signing and the viewing of artwork by Richard D. Wilson, a local African American artist.

The society will celebrate Black History Month on February 21, focusing on the theme, "The Education of African Americans in Edgecombe County, 1881-1970." A panel discussion will feature graduates of the county's four former African American high schools exploring their personal educational experiences. The alumni association of each school will display artifacts and memorabilia. Dr. Willa Coffield is tentatively scheduled to speak on the legacy of the Bricks School, a leading institution of higher learning in the county from the early 1880s through the 1930s. Participants will also have an opportunity to view her documentary video about the school. The celebration will conclude with a reception. All events will be held in the Edgecombe County Administrative Building, 201 St. Andrews Street, Tarboro, N.C. For additional information, contact the society at (252) 641-0294.

New Leaves

[EDITOR'S NOTE: The following is the presidential address delivered by Mrs. Cotten at the meeting of the Historical Society of North Carolina at Elon University on October 24, 2003. Mrs. Cotten retired in December 2002 as head of the reference staff of the North Carolina Collection at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She is the editor of Thomas Wolfe's Composition Books: The North State Fitting School, 1912–1915 and is an active member of the Thomas Wolfe Society.

"I don't know that all is forgiven but they asked me to make a speech": Thomas Wolfe and the 1936 Meeting of the North Carolina Literary and Historical Association

By Alice R. Cotten

All was ready for the annual big event in the cultural life of North Carolina, the meetings of the organizations that carried on the literary, historical, and artistic traditions of the state. Foremost among them was the North Carolina Literary and Historical Association (NCLHA), organized in 1900 "to collect, preserve, produce, and disseminate State literature and history, to encourage public and school libraries, to establish an historical museum, to inculcate a literary spirit among our people, to correct printed misrepresentations concerning North Carolina, and to engender an intelligent, healthy State pride in the rising generation."

The programs were printed, showing that on Thursday evening, December 3, 1936, at 8:00 P.M. at the Woman's Club in Raleigh, William T. Polk of Warrenton, described in publicity as a "rare combination of lawyer and short story writer," would give his presidential address, titled "North Carolina Prophets and the Twentieth Century." The next day held equal promise: Dan Lacy would talk on "The Historical Records Survey in North Carolina"; Ruth Ketring of the Manuscripts Department at Duke University Library was speaking on "Charles Osborne, Quaker Abolitionist"; Archibald Henderson would give a "Review of North Carolina Books and Authors of the Year"; and at the session on Friday evening, Albert Ray Newsome would present the Mayflower Cup for the best nonfiction book of the year, followed by the closing address by well-known Baltimore newspaperman and North Carolina native Gerald Johnson, whose paper was titled "Proposals for a History of the Future."

But the speaker whose name aroused the most interest and got the largest type in newspaper articles was that of a thirty-six-year-old native son of Asheville, who was scheduled to talk on Thursday night after the presidential address. The program listed his appearance simply: "Address: Thomas Wolfe, New York." The article on page two of the *News and Observer* on Wednesday, December 2, 1936, was titled "Wolfe to Speak at Session Here," relegating mention of the talks by Polk, Henderson, Johnson, and others to the body of the article.

Wolfe's name generated interest from all parts of the state. On November 14, Miss Carol Nunnelee of Small's Book Store in Washington, had written to Dr. Christopher C. Crittenden, secretary of NCLHA, that she had read in the *News and Observer* that day that Thomas Wolfe was going to speak on December 3. Miss Nunnelee was "most anxious to hear him" and asked whether she might do so even though she was not a member of the society. Good ambassador that he was, Dr. Crittenden replied that "All session [sic] of the

Association are open to the public . . . we will be glad to have you come whether or not you are a member." He also enclosed a membership card and encouraged her to join by paying the annual dues of \$1.00.³ Miss Philena A. Dickey, director of the Sondley Reference Library in Asheville, wrote to ask for a copy of Wolfe's speech to add to the library's collection.⁴

It is not hard to understand why North Carolinians were anxious to hear and see Thomas Wolfe. Born in Asheville in 1900 and graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1920, Wolfe burst upon the national literary scene in 1929 with his novel, *Look Homeward*, *Angel*. But his drawing upon personal knowledge of real people and events for his literary characters outraged some people, including his favorite teacher in Asheville, who wrote him that "You have crucified your family and devastated mine." Even Jonathan Daniels, who had been at Chapel Hill during Wolfe's last two years there, in his book review in the *News and Observer* on October 20, 1929, charged that "In *Look Homeward*, *Angel*, North Carolina and the South are spat upon." Wolfe, stung by the reactions of his family and friends, had not returned to North Carolina since the book was published in October 1929.

When a letter from his old friend Bill Polk arrived in June 1936, carrying an invitation to speak before the NCLHA in Raleigh in December, Wolfe was tempted, perhaps seeing this as an opportunity to go home again. He wrote to Polk on June 25:

... it is good to know that at least I have a chance of coming home without being escorted to the outskirts of the town by the local Vigilantes and told never to darken their public square again. Seriously, I am very much interested in your invitation and would like to ask for a little more information. Just how historical does a speaker have to be when he talks to the Historical Association? . . . if I spoke, would I be tongue-tied with terror every time I looked around and found the cold and fishy eye of the experts upon me? As I mounted to my peroration, would I be checked in my full flight by the presence of J. G. de Roulhac Hamilton, his face fixed on me with a very fishy look, as though to say: 'If this be history, I'm a horse'? . . . If I got going in Raleigh, the Lord knows what would happen—I've got too much to tell them—

Couldn't you write me and tell me a little more about the thing, the kind of gathering I would have to face and the kind of talk they usually get? . . . So far as I know I'll be right here in New York in December, plugging away at a new book. If I am still here and it was still possible for me to come to Raleigh, I'd probably do it. . . . could you go ahead and get another speaker, announce him and put him on your program, and if you like, say that I didn't know definitely whether I would be able to be present? . . . Then . . . if I was here and you wanted me to come down, perhaps I could come and without interfering with the other fellow, just attend the meeting or get up and talk for ten or fifteen minutes. . . . The main thing, really, Bill, . . . is that I have got started working on another big piece of work. I finally got myself clear of the whole snarl of engagements and complications that were beginning to get me this last year, and am back at work, and I want to keep at it as hard as I can without feeling that I am tied down by anything outside. 6

Polk knew his friend pretty well. On August 4 he wrote to Dr. Crittenden, summarizing Wolfe's letter and saying, "I doubt if we can depend on Tom . . . I am inclined to think we had better have someone we can depend on." Polk passed along Wolfe's suggestion that perhaps the invitation might be left open and, if he did come, he could speak in addition to the announced speaker. Polk ended his letter, however, by saying that whatever Crittenden thought best would be satisfactory. An interesting exchange of letters began. Crittenden wrote back to Polk saying that the matter could not be left so indefinite

and that he was writing Wolfe to "ask him please to say either that he will come or that he will not." Crittenden did so, telling Wolfe that "Large numbers of people in North Carolina are tremendously interested in your work" and that Wolfe could leave New York on Wednesday, December 2, and return Thursday night, December 3, if he wished. Crittenden assured him that the association would pay the expense of his trip. "

On August 7 Polk wrote Crittenden that he had received a letter from Wolfe in which Wolfe said that he might go to Berlin for the Olympics. Polk suggested that if Crittenden didn't hear from Wolfe soon it would be best to try to get another speaker. Polk did not tell Crittenden that Wolfe's letter did not even mention the invitation.

Crittenden continued to court potential speakers. One who declined was Pearl Buck, who wrote on September 10: "I do no public speaking at all except for some personal reason, because my work takes all my time."

On September 14, Crittenden wrote to Mrs. John R. Marsh of Atlanta, inviting her to give the main address on Friday night, December 4. Mrs. Marsh replied, thanking Crittenden and saying she was flattered but that she was not a speaker. "I have only made two brief speeches in my whole life and they so upset me that I was ill for days afterwards. I have discovered that writing books and making speeches are two very different matters." She continued, "Even if I were a speaker, I would still be unable to accept. I lost so much weight completing my book and strained my eyes so severely that I am having to lead a very quiet life and will not be able to do any reading or writing for some time to come. . . . Sincerely, Margaret Mitchell Marsh."

The year 1936 had been difficult for Wolfe.¹² He was beset with legal problems, one involving a young man who was selling some of Wolfe's manuscripts, and another involving a lawsuit brought by a woman who claimed Wolfe had used episodes of her life in one of his stories. His previously announced six-volume series of novels wasn't progressing, and he was considering a new writing project with another theme. The April issue of the *Saturday Review of Literature* carried a charge by Bernard De Voto that Wolfe was more a product of Maxwell Perkins and the "assembly line" at Scribner's than he was a real artist. By July Wolfe, stung by this criticism and by frustrations with Perkins over the direction of Wolfe's writing, began a painful break with his editor and publisher.

Wolfe had traveled to Germany in 1935 as a literary celebrity and had liked the country very much. Berlin was the site of the 1936 Olympics, which appealed to Wolfe. When he learned that his German royalties from *Of Time and the River* were sizable and could not be brought out of the country, he accepted an offer from a steamship line offering him half-fare passage in return for writing some short travel articles. On July 23 Wolfe sailed from New York on the *Europa*, his seventh trip to Europe. The trip proved to be a pivotal point in his writing career.

Wolfe came to Berlin in 1936 as a celebrity, prepared to enjoy again the wine, women, and food in the country he admired for its cleanliness, order, and appreciation of his writing. And he did, for a time. But he was also changed in some unexpected ways. While attending the Olympic Games, seated in the box of William Dodd, the American ambassador, Wolfe cheered loudly for Jesse Owens, the great African American athlete, producing glares from Hitler. He fell in love with a German woman, though he got cold feet and abandoned her while they were on holiday in the Austrian Alps. And, significantly, Wolfe at last understood the realities of the Nazi dictatorship. Shocked by a frightening experience on a train in which he witnessed the arrest of a German Jew trying to escape across the border into Belgium, Wolfe began writing a powerful story about the episode, later titled "I Have a Thing to Tell You."

In early October Wolfe returned to New York and began writing furiously, a period that Wolfe scholar Richard S. Kennedy described as "the third great creative period of his

career." From early October until December 4, 1936, Wolfe wrote, according to notes by his secretary, 721 pages, or 180,250 words, an astonishing output, work that made up the bulk of Wolfe's two posthumous novels, *The Web and the Rock* and *You Can't Go Home Again*. ¹⁴

During this period of intense creative activity, Wolfe wrote to Bill Polk again about the Raleigh meeting. On October 14, Polk wrote Crittenden: "Yesterday I received a letter from Tom Wolfe saying that we had better not count on him and suggesting that we get another speaker. He said that he had planned a new book and did not want to tie himself up with any engagements." But the North Carolina folks did not give up easily. On October 21, Jonathan Daniels wrote Wolfe, inviting him to a dinner that he and Mrs. Daniels were having on



Thomas Wolfe in Berlin, May 1935.

December 4 for speakers at the NCLHA meeting. Wolfe replied that the chance of his being able to come to Raleigh was uncertain, though he would of course like to come, and that if he did he would be delighted to have dinner with the Daniels family. Wolfe praised Daniels's work with the *News and Observer* and, perhaps remembering Daniels's review of *Look Homeward, Angel*, Wolfe thanked his old schoolmate for the "fine and generous notice" of *Of Time and the River* when it was published in 1935. The rest of Wolfe's long letter to Daniels was about Germany and politics. Wolfe wrote, in part:

I like Germany. It is a wonderful country. . . . But I deeply fear that these grand qualities, all this devotion and fervor and self-sacrifice, has now been given to a misdirected purpose. . . . Europe this summer was a volcano of poisonous and constricted hatreds which threatened to erupt at any moment. . . . I think you'd be surprised if you saw how politically-minded I've become. I've become enormously interested in politics for the first time in my life. . . . Meanwhile I am back at work again on a new book. It's all coming with a rush and, believe it or not, for several weeks now I've done more than 5000 words a day. 16

Daniels wrote back on November 2 saying he was delighted that Wolfe could have dinner with him and Mrs. Daniels when he came down for the NCLHA meeting. Daniels continued:

I am very glad to know of your interest in politics but as yours grows mine wanes. I am delighted that tomorrow marks the end of the political season and we can come up for a real breath of fresh air. Of course, I am tremendously enthusiastic for Roosevelt but I am undisturbed about what the state of the nation will be on Wednesday morning. Even if the country goes crazy and elects Landon somehow I believe we will survive. Certainly I hope we will all survive until the night of December 4 and I trust we will have some fun.¹⁷

On October 28, 1936, Crittenden sent a letter to members of the NCLHA announcing the "unusually attractive program" for December 3-4. ¹⁸ Thomas Wolfe was on the

schedule. On November 6, Crittenden wrote to Wolfe that he and Polk were placing Wolfe's name on the program for Thursday evening, December 3, realizing that it might not be possible for Wolfe to come. He assured Wolfe that if he couldn't come, they would get someone to fill his place. A letter from Polk to Crittenden on November 7 again reported that a letter from Wolfe said it was doubtful he could come and that if he didn't he hoped they would explain that he had not definitely promised. December 2.

Crittenden, certainly nervous by this time, wrote Wolfe again on November 25, telling him that his visit was arousing a lot of interest. "People have written and telephoned from various parts of the State to ask about it, and many of your friends are looking forward to seeing you." Crittenden asked for a summary of Wolfe's talk by November 30.21 On that date Wolfe finally wrote to Crittenden. His letter said that he had delayed responding until the last minute, hoping he could come, but that he could not because he was working "at top speed" on a manuscript, material that he had been working on since his return from Europe two months earlier. Wolfe said several times in his letter that he was genuinely sorry if there had been any misapprehension about his attendance, that he had said from the beginning that he did not know for certain that he could come and that he would prefer to come as a guest than as a speaker. He added that he hoped that he would get an invitation to attend another meeting.²² A telegram from Polk to Crittenden dated December 2, 10:12 A.M. read: "HAVE TELEGRAM FROM THOMAS WOLFE SAYING IMPOSSIBLE BE PRESENT PLEASE NOTIFY PAPERS."23 The article in the News and Observer the next day was titled: "Novelist Wolfe Out as Speaker." It began "Thomas Wolfe decided yesterday not to look homeward."24

But the NCLHA meeting was a success even without Wolfe. In a front-page article with the initially puzzling title, "Looks Critically at Speedometer Reading Habits," the *News and Observer* reported that William Polk, "40-year-old Warrenton lawyer, mayor, and literary man," had opened the annual meeting the previous day with a gloomy survey honoring "prophets" such as Edward Kidder Graham, Walter Hines Page, Clarence Poe, and others. Polk declared that the state, "whose favorite reading was the speedometer," must now turn its attention to tenant farming and mill villages. Dr. Alex M. Arnett filled the spot that was to have been Wolfe's and gave a paper on Claude Kitchin.²⁵

Secretary Crittenden wrote to Wolfe for the final time on December 14, saying that "post mortems are in order" and that he believed that everyone understood that Wolfe had never definitely promised to come to the meeting. Crittenden went on to say that many people were very disappointed, and that "I feel that in a sense you owe it to your native State to come back and make a public appearance within the near future." He added, however, "I shall not venture again to put you on the program unless you have categorically committed yourself to be present."²⁶

Wolfe's letter of December 2 to Bill Polk explained his absence in more detail, mentioning his legal problems and his writing. Of the latter, Wolfe wrote: "I've just stayed in and worked for two months now, and I haven't even had a haircut, which of course won't be news to you. . . . I'm going to keep on here as hard as I can go until Christmas. . . . I'm coming down to North Carolina in a few weeks for the first time in seven years to see a few of you again. . . . I think also the time is coming when I may have something to say to North Carolina that will interest it. But I'm not sure that I am ready yet."²⁷

In a letter written on Christmas Eve, Wolfe also told his friend Marjorie Fairbanks of his upcoming trip to North Carolina: "Yes, I think they'll let me come back now. I don't know that all is forgiven but they asked me to make a speech, which is something isn't it?" He added, truthfully, "Of course, I didn't make it."²⁸

Though Wolfe did visit friends in Southern Pines, Chapel Hill, Warrenton, and finally, Asheville, over the next year, he never had another opportunity to address the NCLHA

meeting and tell North Carolina whatever it was that he wanted to say. He died of tuberculosis of the brain at Johns Hopkins University Hospital in Baltimore on September 15, 1938. He was thirty-seven years old.

Shortly after Wolfe's death, Jonathan Daniels, giving the presidential address at the 1938 annual meeting of the NCLHA, declared that literature must awaken the South from a lethargy of legend and remove the Civil War as the "scapegoat" for its shortcomings. Daniels praised Wolfe for writing in this vein, calling him "an artist who saw through the false pride, the legendary aristocracy and feeble excuse of the South." And that may have been pretty close to what Wolfe wanted to tell his native state.

Notes

- 1. The North Carolina Literary and Historical Association. Program. 1936.
- 2. Christopher C. Crittenden to members of the Literary and Historical Association, October 28, 1936, in box titled "General Correspondence, 1936-1938," in Records of the Literary and Historical Association, State Archives, Office of Archives and History, Raleigh, hereafter cited as Lit. & Hist. Records.
- 3. Lit. & Hist. Records, November 16, 1936.
- 4. Lit. & Hist. Records, November 16, 1936.
- 5. Margaret Roberts to Thomas Wolfe, undated, quoted in Richard S. Kennedy, *The Window of Memory* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1962), 183.
- 6. Thomas Wolfe to William T. Polk, June 25, 1936, in Elizabeth Nowell, ed., *The Letters of Thomas Wolfe* (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1956), 534–536.
- 7. Lit. & Hist. Records, August 4, 1936.
- 8. Copy in Lit. & Hist. Records, August 5, 1936.
- 9. Copy in Lit. & Hist. Records, August 5, 1936.
- 10. Lit. & Hist. Records, September 10, 1936.
- 11. Lit. & Hist. Records, September 14 and 17, 1936.
- 12. For more information on Wolfe's life and writing, see Kennedy, *The Window of Memory*, and David Herbert Donald, *Look Homeward: A Life of Thomas Wolfe* (Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1987).
- 13. See Donald, Look Homeward: A Life of Thomas Wolfe, 386.
- 14. Richard S. Kennedy and Paschal Reeves, eds., *The Notebooks of Thomas Wolfe* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1970), 841.
- 15. Lit. & Hist. Records, October 14, 1936.
- 16. Thomas Wolfe to Jonathan Daniels, October 23, 1936, quoted almost entirely in Nowell, *The Letters of Thomas Wolfe*, 551–554. Original in Jonathan Worth Daniels Papers, Southern Historical Collection, Wilson Library, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.
- 17. Copy in Daniels Papers.
- 18. Christopher Crittenden to members of the Literary and Historical Association, October 28, 1936. Lit. & Hist. Records.
- 19. Christopher Crittenden to Thomas Wolfe, November 6, 1936. Copy in Lit. & Hist. Records.
- 20. William T. Polk to Christopher Crittenden, November 7, 1936. Lit. & Hist. Records.
- 21. Christopher Crittenden to Thomas Wolfe, November 25, 1936. Copy in Lit. & Hist. Records.
- 22. Thomas Wolfe to Christopher Crittenden, November 30, 1936. Lit. & Hist. Records.
- 23. Lit. & Hist. Records, December 2, 1936.
- 24. News and Observer, Thursday, December 3, 1936.
- 25. News and Observer, Friday, December 4, 1936.
- 26. Christopher Crittenden to Thomas Wolfe, December 14, 1936. Copy in Lit. & Hist. Records.
- 27. Thomas Wolfe to William T. Polk, December 2, 1936, in Nowell, *The Letters of Thomas Wolfe*, 561-562.
- 28. Thomas Wolfe to Marjorie Fairbanks, December 24, 1936, in Nowell, *The Letters of Thomas Wolfe*, 568-569.
- 29. Quoted in the News and Observer, December 2, 1938.

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